



A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA DESIGNATING MAY 12 AS RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AWARENESS DAY IN MONTANA.

WHEREAS, rheumatoid arthritis is an autoimmune disease that affects approximately 1.3 million Americans in all population groups; and

WHEREAS, nearly 70% of rheumatoid arthritis cases involve women; and

WHEREAS, a person suffering from rheumatoid arthritis has antibodies that target joint tissues and organs, often resulting in inflamed or thickened tissue linings and excess joint fluid; and

WHEREAS, rheumatoid arthritis may cause symptoms such as joint pain, swelling, inflammation and redness, fatigue, stiffness, weakness, muscle pain, loss of appetite, depression, and anemia; and

WHEREAS, if rheumatoid arthritis is left untreated, serious consequences can occur, including damage to the body's cartilage, bones, tendons, and ligaments, and these may, in turn, lead to joint deformity or destruction as well as a loss of joint function; and

WHEREAS, rheumatoid arthritis negatively affects Montana's economy by making it difficult for those afflicted with rheumatoid arthritis to work; and

WHEREAS, rheumatoid arthritis is not a curable disease but is treatable in consultation with a physician; and

WHEREAS, there is a severe shortage of rheumatologists in Montana; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to raise awareness in Montana regarding rheumatoid arthritis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Montana Legislature designate May 12 as Rheumatoid Arthritis Awareness Day in Montana to help raise awareness of rheumatoid arthritis and increase treatment options for sufferers of rheumatoid arthritis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Services Division post the designation of this day on

the Montana Legislature's website.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within joint resolution,
HJ 0029, originated in the House.

Chief Clerk of the House

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2009.

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2009.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29

INTRODUCED BY BECKER

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